

Rethinking Lifetime Abuse in Old Age from Intersectional Lens: a Scoping Review Protocol

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ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**Support** - No.**Review Stage at time of this submission** - Preliminary searches.**Conflicts of interest** - None declared.**INPLASY registration number:** INPLASY2023110005**Amendments** - This protocol was registered with the International Platform of Registered Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis Protocols (INPLASY) on 02 November 2023 and was last updated on 02 November 2023.**INTRODUCTION**

Review question / Objective The overarching objective of this scoping review is to systematically map existing definitions, characteristics, evidence, questions, and meanings of lifetime abuse in old age as well as to identify existing gaps in knowledge. In doing so, this scoping review aims to problematize the concept, as it has been used in empirical studies, to gain a deeper perspective of the topic by understanding its dimensions, meanings, and experiences at older ages, to inform the development of a conceptual framework for "lifetime abuse" from the intersectional point of view. The question guiding this research is: How to conceptualize and understand the lifetime abuse of older adults from the intersectional point of view?

Background In recent years, research on abuse has made significant advances in domains such as child abuse, intimate partner violence, and elder abuse and neglect. For the most part, however,

these studies have focused on forms of abuse, populations, social situations, outcomes, and coping methods. This piecemeal approach, which we metaphorically refer to as "the salami tactic," (referring to many small actions that over time add up to a much larger effect) tends to lose sight of the web of abuse created by the interactive effects of various forms of abuse over time (Hamby et al., 2016). Such processes become more relevant and deserve examination when considering the circumstances in which ever-growing populations experience abuse and marginalization over the life course. For example, according to World Health Organization reports, 1 in 5 women and 1 in 13 men report having been sexually abused as children between the ages of 0-17 years (World Health Organization, 2021a) globally; about 1 in 3 (30%) women worldwide have been subjected to either physical or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime (World Health Organization, 2021c; Yon et al., 2017). around 1 in 6 people 60 years and older in institutional settings (World Health Organization,

2021b) and about 1 in 7 of community dwellers (Yon et al., 2017) experienced some form of abuse in the preceding year. Rates of abuse in all age groups have increased during the COVID-19 pandemic (Bradbury-Jones & Isham, 2020; Chang & Levy, 2021; Lawson et al., 2020).

No universally agreed-upon definition of lifetime abuse exists, which makes the assessment of prevalence difficult. The available definitions relate to certain parameters of lifetime abuse such as prevalence (Eslami et al., 2016), severity (K. A. Scott-Storey et al., 2019), type (McDonnell, 2003), and consequences over time (Fraga et al., 2017), but no comprehensive definition has been formulated. Most of the research on lifetime abuse is based on the perspective offered by child abuse research (Nikolaidis et al., 2018), whereas the perspective of late-life abuse has received scant research attention. The importance of studying lifetime abuse as viewed by older adults goes beyond elder abuse itself and serves as a reflection of abuse in the context of time and significant life events across the lifespan (Simmons & Swahnberg, 2021).

Crenshaw (Crenshaw, 1992, 2018) used the term “intersectionality” to demonstrate the inadequacy of the processes that separate rather than unify factors causing the oppression and isolation of women of color. She used the metaphor of intersectionality to describe the simultaneous and additive effect of factors, such as gender, age, socioeconomic, and personal status.

Applying Crenshaw’s metaphor (Crenshaw, 1992) to old age suggests that old age involves being subject to biases, stigma, and discrimination (or simply put, ageism), at the same time suffering in addition from multiple disadvantages that further exacerbate the difficulties experienced by an elderly person. For example, women who suffer from intimate partner violence in old age after having been exposed over the years to sexism, pay the price exacted by age-based exclusionary social structures and policies. (P. Dressel et al., 2020).

An intersectional perspective of lifetime abuse provides an opportunity to overcome the salami tactic by enabling the transferability of research findings to other forms of abuse and additional populations concerning various modes of oppression and inequality, ranging from interpersonal to social. By taking into consideration the intersectional approach suggested above we may achieve a kaleidoscopic effect concerning the meaning of lifetime abuse in its complexity.

Rationale The research question guiding this scoping review is broad, enabling the tracing and mapping of the many different meanings of

‘lifetime abuse’ as well as clarifying the concept for a particular population of older adults, identifying key characteristics, and gaps in the literature to shape and direct future research. Further, the scoping review enables an approach toward a heterogeneous body of knowledge, across multiple disciplines, contexts, and methodologies, including quantitative and qualitative approaches.

METHODS

Strategy of data synthesis This scoping review protocol is informed by the methodological frameworks detailed by Arksey and O’Malley (Arksey & O’Malley, 2005) and Levac et al (Levac et al., 2010). It is further guided by Peters et al at the Joanna Briggs Institute (JB) (Peters et al., 2020) at the Joanna Briggs Institute (JB) PubMed, CINAHL, and APA PsycINFO will be searched for articles published on the current date or before. The date of the search will be recorded. Search terms were selected based on research question and consultations with experts in the field of gerontology, as well as from highly cited publications and reviews on related topics, and the literature referenced in these publications. The search strategy has limitations. For the review to be feasible, only certain terms describing “lifetime abuse” will be included. This review will be unable to include all potential terms relevant to ‘lifetime’ The search strategy was differed for PubMed, CINAHL/ APA PsycINFO as follows: Concept #1: lifetime abuse PubMed: "lifetime abuse"[Title/Abstract:~2] OR "lifetime violence"[Title/Abstract:~2] CINAHL and APA PsycINFO: "Lifetime" N2 ("Abuse" OR "Violence") Concept #2: older adults “elder*” OR “old age” OR “older adult*” OR “older people” OR “older person*” OR “older patient*” OR “older population*” OR “old adult*” OR “old people” OR “old person*” OR “old patient*” OR “old population*” OR “senior*” OR “later life” OR “late life” OR “aging” OR “ageing” OR “oldest old” OR “geriatric” OR “age-related”.

Eligibility criteria Articles for this scoping review will be included if they meet the following eligibility criteria: specific inclusion of older adults (≥ 65 years) in the context of lifetime abuse. Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods studies, inclusive of those that are observational, interventional, and case study-based, will be included in order to consider different ways of approaching and measuring access to health services. Regarding publication limits, peer-reviewed published across all years and in the English language will be considered.

Papers will be excluded if they focus on only age-related (elder) abuse or focus on drugs/alcohol or other substance abuse.

Source of evidence screening and selection

The search strategies were drafted with the research team together with two experienced librarians, Amy Shapira and Ronit Marco, and further refined through team discussion. To identify potentially relevant documents, searches will be run in all databases listed above with no date limit. Titles and abstracts will be exported into the reference management software, Covidence, which will automatically identify and remove duplicates. Titles and abstracts will be screened for eligibility by two independent researchers. Full texts will be retrieved and screened for both studies that meet the eligibility criteria as well as studies in which eligibility is unclear. Any disagreement in study selection— following both the title/abstract screening as well as the full text screening—will be resolved through discussion between the two researchers. If a consensus is not reached, a third researcher will be consulted. The remaining studies will be considered eligible for review. Articles for this scoping review will be included if they meet the following eligibility criteria: specific inclusion of older adults (≥ 65 years) in the context of lifetime abuse. Quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods studies, inclusive of those that are observational, interventional, and case study-based, will be included in order to consider different ways of approaching and measuring access to health services. Regarding publication limits, peer-reviewed published across all years and in the English language will be considered.

Papers will be excluded if they focus both on only age-related (elder) abuse rather with drugs/alcohol or other substance abuse.

The search strategies were drafted with the research team together with two experienced librarians, Amy Shapira and Ronit Marco, and further refined through team discussion. To identify potentially relevant documents, searches will be run in all databases listed above with no date limit. Titles and abstracts will be exported into the reference management software, Covidence, which will automatically identify and remove duplicates. Titles and abstracts will be screened for eligibility by two independent researchers. Full texts will be retrieved and screened for both studies that meet the eligibility criteria as well as studies in which eligibility is unclear. Any disagreement in study selection— following both the title/abstract screening as well as the full text screening—will be resolved through discussion between the two researchers. If a consensus is not

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Papers will be excluded if they focus on drugs/alcohol or other substance abuse.

Data management The processes of data extraction, analysis, and presentation of results are informed by Pollock et al (2023). Two researchers will independently extract relevant information from full texts of eligible papers into a comprehensive data extraction form designed specifically for this review by the research team. The extraction form is dictated by the review objectives and research question. The extracted content will include (1) characteristics of included studies (authors, year of publication, title, country of origin, aims/purpose of the study, study type, population demographics, sample size, intervention if applicable, study setting, methodology, date data were collected, key findings) and (2) characteristics of 'lifetime abuse' (definitions, kind of abuse, parameters, outcomes of abuse, results, and consequences of access). Authors of studies will be contacted via email to obtain any missing data or important information. Before extraction, a pilot test will be performed. Using the extraction form, two researchers will independently extract data from two or three items. Following this, they will reflect on the process and determine if any amendments need to be made to the extraction form. These may include adding further information categories, removing redundant categories, or clarifying category definitions. Each researcher will then independently extract data from each evidence source into the extraction form. As this scoping review takes an inductive and iterative approach, the extraction form will also be revised if further data categories become salient in the process of extraction. Regular research team check-ins will be important during this phase to discuss the process, issues encountered, and if there are any changes to the extraction form. Following extraction, a third researcher will examine the data. Any disagreements will be resolved through discussion and consensus among the research team.

Reporting results / Analysis of the evidence

Tricco et al's (2018) PRISMA Extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) checklist will guide the reporting of this scoping review. A detailed account of the search strategy will be reported to enable transparency and easy replication by others. The following data points will be reported in a flow diagram: the number of articles screened and assessed for eligibility, the number of articles included in the review, the reasons for exclusions at each stage. Descriptive statistics will be used to present information about evidence sources, for example, the proportion of sources that drew on a particular method. As this scoping review aims to inductively map the available evidence and inform the development of a conceptual framework around lifetime abuse of older adults basic qualitative content analysis will be employed (Elo & Kyngäs 2008). The qualitative data analysis software, NVIVO, will be used for this analysis. The analysis will be applied to the extraction forms of all evidence sources and will involve a process of open coding to categorize results into different thematic areas. Thematic areas will then be iteratively refined in order to develop a coding framework. The research team will review the coding framework, and subsequently, two researchers will go through the included evidence sources to extract relevant information and organize it within the coding framework. The organized extractions will then be assessed against the initial coding framework. Categories and subcategories may be changed to accommodate new understandings of the results. These categories will be brought together to form a conceptual framework that addresses the question of the review.

Presentation of the results To best convey the findings uncovered by the scoping review, data will be presented in a framework and described narratively. The main results will be summarized alongside an overview of the concepts, themes, and types of evidence available. The findings will be linked to the review's research objectives and questions as well as current literature, clinical practice, and policy. The implications of the review will be considered and discussed, potentially contributing to recommendations for future research. The overall findings will then be translated for the relevant target audiences of the review, for example, policymakers, health care providers, patients and their carers.

Language restriction English.

Country(ies) involved Israel.

Keywords lifetime abuse; physical abuse; emotional abuse; domestic violence; IPV; sexual abuse; cumulative abuse; outcomes of abuse; older adults.

Dissemination plans Dissemination of the findings will first occur via submission of the scoping review for peer-reviewed publication in a scientific journal. Following the publication of the study, the findings will be shared with the experts in the field who informed the search strategy of this scoping review.

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